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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-01 /094 W

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R 131720Z MAR 75

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE, UN

SUBJECT: ECE - ENERGY STUDY

SUMMARY: MAJOR STUDY ON ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY OF ENERGY SYSTEM IN ECE REGION TO BE CONSIDERED AT 30TH SESSION. STUDY SUGGESTS SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR ENERGY SAVINGS. POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION IN ECE INCLUDE PERIODIC EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON MEASURES TO ACHIEVE GREATER ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY, EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON ENERGY CONSERVATION POLICIES AND COOPERATIVE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCH. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SUGGESTS AD HOC MEETING ON ENERGY ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY TO DEVELOP PROGRAM FOR COOPERATION. MISSION REQUESTS EXPERTS VIEWS ON STUDY AND GUIDANCE FOR USEFUL ECE ROLE IN ENERGY FIELD AS BASIS FOR POSITION AT 30TH SESSION. END SUMMARY.

1. SECRETARIAT HAS RELEASED DOCUMENTS ON "ENERGY PROBLEMS IN THE ECE REGION" (E/ECE/882) AND "STUDY ON ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY IN EXTRACTION, CONVERSION, TRANSPORT AND USE OF ENERGY" (E/ECE/883) AS BACKGROUND FOR DISCUSSION OF ENERGY QUESTIONS IN 30TH SESSION OF ECE (15-25 APRIL).

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2. STUDY WAS AUTHORIZED BY 29TH SESSION AS FIRST EFFORT

TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC ENERGY PROBLEMS ON COMPREHENSIVE BASIS AS CONTRASTED WITH SECTORAL PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY SPECIALLIZED COMMITTEES (I.E., COAL, GAS, ELECTRIC POWER).

3. STUDY CONTAINS FOUR CHAPTERS ON ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK FOR ENERGY SAVING MEASURES; SPECIFIC POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASED ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY; MEASURES TAKEN OR PLANNED BY ECE GOVERNMENTS; GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION WITHIN ECE.

4. STUDY IS CAREFULLY PREPARED AND DESIGNED TO PROVIDE PRELIMINARY OVER-ALL SURVEY OF ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY OF ALL MAJOR FORMS OF ENERGY. FLOW CHART SUMMARIZES LOSSES AT EACH STAGE FROM EXTRACTION TO FINAL END USE. CONCLUSION REACHED THAT THE ENERGY SYSTEM IN ECE REGION OPERATES AT 15 PERCENT EFFICIENCY WITH REMAINDER "LOST" DURING FLOW.

5. STUDY ESTIMATES THAT OVER-ALL EFFICIENCY CAN BE RAISED TO 30 PERCENT WHICH WOULD REQUIRE AN EXTENSIVE APPLICATION OF MEASURES "REGARDLESS OF THEIR FINANCIAL ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL IMPLICATIONS AND IMPACT ON CONSUMER HABITS". MEASURES INCLUDE, INTER ALIA, HIGHER RECOVERY RATES IN EXTRACTION, BETTER INSULATION, RECYCLING OF LOW-GRADE HEAT AND GASES, AND IMPROVED ENERGY-SAVINGS END-USE APPLIANCES. A MORE REALISTIC ESTIMATE IS AN INCREASE TO 20 PERCENT EFFICIENCY RATE WHICH COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT REDUCING STANDARDS OF LIVING OR ENDANGERING OTHER SOCIAL OBJECTIVES.

6. AS DEMONSTRATED IN CHAPTER ON GOVERNMENT MEASURES, THERE IS AWARENESS OF NEED TO INCREASE ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY OF ENERGY USE AND MANY GOVERNMENTS TAKING STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION. STUDY SUGGESTS 12 SPECIFIC MEASURES WHICH OFFER BEST AND MOST PRACTICABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENERGY SAVINGS.

7. POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION WITHIN ECE, AS CONTAINED IN STUDY, INCLUDE PERIODIC EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON MEASURES TO ACHIEVE GREATER ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY, EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON ENERGY CONSERVATION POLICIES, AND COOPERATIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCH. 33 AREAS FOR RESEARCH ARE SPECIFIED, NONE OF WHICH ARE CURRENTLY CONTAINED IN ECE PROGRAM. SECRETARIAT SUGGESTS THAT "IT WOULD SEEM DESIRABLE TO CONDUCT THE ADDITIONAL RESEARCH STUDIES SELECTED - AS WELL AS THOSE RELATED RESEARCH PROJECTS ALREADY INCLUDED IN THE ECE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES - AS A COMBINED, INTEGRATED AND COMPREHENSIVE EFFORT. SUCH AN EFFORT MIGHT COMPRISE NOT ONLY THE PLANNING AND

ORGANIZING OF SELECTED INTERGOVERNMENTAL CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS BUT ALSO PERIODIC EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION ON POLICIES AND MEASURES AND ON THEIR EFFECTIVENESS ... "

8. FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION, (E/ECE/882), EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SUGGESTS THAT COMMISSION (1) REQUEST PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES TO EXAMINE THE STUDY AND (2) CONVENE, BEFORE THE 31ST SESSION, AN AD HOC MEETING OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENERGY ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY POLICIES. THIS MEETING WOULD (1) EXCHANGE INFORMATION; (2) EXAMINE SPECIFIC POSSIBILITIES FOR ENERGY SAVINGS; (3) ASSIST IN ORGANIZING COOPERATIVE RESEARCH; (4) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A COMBINED, INTEGRATED AND COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF COOPERATION; (5) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MODEL BUILDING FOR EXAMINATION AT SYMPOSIA.

COMMENT: SECRETARIAT ATTEMPTING TO CARVE OUT SPECIAL ROLE FOR ECE IN ENERGY FIELD WHERE IT MIGHT MAKE UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION, I.E. ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY. IT IS SEEKING TO AVOID DUPLICATION WITH OTHER BODIES AND TO CONCENTRATE ON NON-SENSITIVE AREA WHERE EAST-WEST COOPERATION MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. IT IS LIKELY THAT COMMISSION WILL ENCOURAGE THIS EFFORT WITH CONCENTRATION ON A FEW SPECIFIC AREAS.

INITIAL REACTION AMONG DELEGATIONS FOR CONVENING AD HOC CONFERENCE IS RESERVED BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO INDICATE POSITIONS WHICH WILL ACTUALLY BE TAKEN AT 30TH SESSION.

MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE CAREFUL EXAMINATION AND APPRAISAL OF E/ECE/883 BY US EXPERTS IN ORDER TO FORMULATE POSITION FOR SESSION AS TO HOW ECE EFFORTS CAN BEST BE DIRECTED IN ENERGY FIELD TAKING INTO ACCOUNT EXTENSIVE INTER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NATIONAL ACTIVITIES ALREADY UNDERWAY. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BEAR IN MIND SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION WHICH ECE MIGHT MAKE BY VIRTUE OF EAST-WEST COMPOSITION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA01743
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750088-0778
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750355/aaaabxhh.tel
Line Count: 159
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <30 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECE - ENERGY STUDY SUMMARY: MAJOR STUDY ON ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY OF ENERGY
TAGS: OCON, ECE, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006